**POLICY**

Ohio Living Communities are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of good health. Our goal is to provide a comfortable and productive environment for all residents and employees. We are committed to protecting the health of those living and working in our facilities.

**PROCEDURE**

Residents that live/stay within the licensed nursing home:

1. Independent residents may smoke within the confines of their private room/apartment/ home. They must close their apartment doors to outside hallways when smoking.
2. Residents in the Nursing Center who smoke tobacco-cigarettes must be assessed using the Safe Smoking Risk Assessment.
3. Residents may be discouraged from smoking on an individual basis, if it is not medically advisable or safe for the resident to smoke, as documented in their medical record by the attending physician.
4. There will be no smoking in areas, rooms, apartments or homes where oxygen is in use or is stored. If oxygen is in use, signs shall be posted in these areas.
5. Residents are only allowed to smoke in outside designated smoking areas if determined to be a safe smoker as assessed.
6. Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigarettes): E-cigarettes have no flame. There are two components to most devices. One is the LED light bulb that simulates the "coal" on a cigarette. The other is a heating coil that vaporizes the propylene glycol, the "smoke" agent. Propylene glycol is not a fuel, and the heating coil is operated at very low amperage. In a survey and certification letter dated November 10, 2011(S&C: 12-04-NH), CMS stated “e-cigarettes are not considered smoking devices, and their heating element does not pose the same dangers of ignition as regular cigarettes.
   1. No e-cigarettes are allowed in the licensed areas where there is oxygen in use.
   2. Each nursing facility may or not allow e-cigarettes, based upon their preference
      1. If the nursing facility allows the use of e-cigarettes, they must define the areas where they can be used, away from oxygen in use.